

Gifts from Above

12.4.22

BEYOND SUNDAY WEEK TWO PEACE

DAY 8

Watch the Peace video:

<https://youtu.be/oLYORLZOaZE>

In our second week of advent, we'll explore the biblical meaning of peace and how it all leads to Jesus. How does the video encourage you today?

DAY 9

The Hebrew word for peace is shalom, and it describes a deep sense of well-being that comes through the presence of completion, reconciliation, and justice.

[Read Proverbs 16:7.](#)

Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- Considering what you have learned about God in the Bible, name three ways (thoughts, actions, or words) people can bring pleasure to God.
- How do you imagine these three ways could bring peace, even between enemies?

DAY 10

The prophet Isaiah looked forward to the arrival of a future king who would make a covenant of shalom with his people. His reign would right all wrongs and undo all harm. [Read Isaiah 9:6-7.](#)

Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- What words or phrases stand out to you as you observe this passage?
- Based on this passage, how does the Prince of Peace govern his Kingdom?
- How can you cooperate with God to expand his peaceful rule in the places where you live?

DAY 11

The prophet Isaiah looked forward to the arrival of the Prince of Peace, whose reign would lead to eternal shalom. Isaiah's words were fulfilled with the arrival of Jesus. This is why it is so significant that the angels described Jesus' birth as one that would bring "peace on earth." [Read Luke 2:9-15, Isaiah 9:6-7.](#)

Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think God announced the arrival of the King to no-name shepherds? What does this tell you about the nature of God and his Kingdom?
- Notice the words "highest" and "earth" in the angel's worshipful announcement. What came from the heights of Heaven to Earth when Jesus was born? How is this good news?

DAY 12

The biblical story shows how humanity often chooses a way of life apart from God and suffers as a result. God knows how painful it is to be separated from him. He wants to be close to humanity, so he sends Jesus to make peace. Through Jesus, all things are being restored to harmony with God again. [Read Colossians 1:19-23.](#)

Reflection and Discussion Question:

- According to this passage, what did God want to do, and how did he accomplish his desire through Jesus?

DAY 13

The apostle Paul says Jesus himself is our peace. Jesus removed all the things that separate humanity from one another and from God and now offers his peace to others as a gift. Jesus' followers are called to receive, keep, and cultivate this gift of peace, which requires humility, gentleness, patience, and love. [Read Ephesians 2:11-15, Ephesians 4:1-3, Ephesians 4:29-32.](#)

Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- How did Jesus make peace between two sharply divided people groups (Jews and Gentiles), and why did he do it (see [Ephesians 2:16](#))?
- Review Ephesians 4:1-3 carefully. How can humility, gentleness, patience, and love help to maintain the unity Jesus made for his followers? What happens to unity when one of these virtues is missing?

DAY 14

The apostle Paul writes his letter to the Philippians from prison. He knows hardship, but he also knows the peace of God. This is because biblical peace, like hope, is based on a person and not on circumstances. Paul calls followers to rejoice in God at all times, to pray, to give thanks, and to think on what is good and true. Paul shows how these habits can lead to experiencing the peace of God even in the midst of great difficulty. [Read Philippians 4:1-9.](#)

Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- Review verses 7 and 9. What does God's peace protect?
- Make a list of the instructions Paul gives in Philippians 4:1-9 (e.g. "stand firm in the Lord," "live in harmony," etc).
- Observe your list and imagine making one into a habit. What would that habit practically look like in your daily life? How do you think it could lead to a renewed experience of God's protective peace?



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WEEK TWO: PEACE